

LAW AND DISABILITY Teaching Materials

VOLUME I

Prepared by:
Sarah Armstrong
Mindy Noble
Pauline Rosenbaum

Instructor: Mr. David Baker

Spring term 2002-2003

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FACULTY OF LAW
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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LAW AND DISABILITY

In our third year of law school at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, Sarah Armstrong, Mindy Noble and Pauline Rosenbaum designed a course to focus on law and disability issues in legal education. The course is intended to cover a variety of issues relating to law and disability, including substantive legal areas, legislative initiatives, professional responsibility and practice, and international legal obligations.

Our desire to conduct research in this area stems from a concern that issues surrounding disability are not sufficiently addressed in legal education. Neither mainstream "black letter law" course work, nor the other aspects of law school life, reflect an appreciation for the growing numbers of people with disabilities in our society, and the barriers faced by these people. Further, at present there is an inadequate understanding within the legal and political community of legal responses to disability. We hope that this curriculum will add to the diversity of learning within the law school and will lead to an increased dialogue and understanding of the many important issues that arise from the intersection of disability and the law. Moreover, we hope that students will take their knowledge into many communities, and help remove barriers and enhance equality for people with disabilities.

Description of the Course

We have designed a 13-week course that can be used in whole or in part by educators at the law school level, but which may be able to be used in other education for such as high school curricula, undergraduate courses, or judicial education workshops. The materials are designed based on a problem-based learning approach, which emphasizes self-directed learning, creativity and team work. The course will encourage a focus on group work, research skills, and learning outside of the classroom.

Sarah, Mindy and Pauline wish to acknowledge the following people for fostering our understanding and supporting this project:

- Mary Tremblay
- Rhoda Howard Hassmann
- Lorraine Weinrib
- Peter Rosenbaum
- David Lepofksy
- Lisa Cirillo
- David Baker
- Joanne Rosen

The authors have granted permission to the U of T Faculty of Law and to David Baker to use these materials in the Law and Disability Course offered in the 2002-2003 winter term. The authors are continuing to develop these materials for eventual publication. Input or feedback on the course materials may be directed to Sarah at sarah.armstrong@utoronto.ca, Mindy at mindy.noble@utoronto.ca, and Pauline at pauline.rosenbaum@utoronto.ca.

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	Introduction: Models of Disability	
	Problem Based Learning Approach	
-3)	Constitutional Law	
4	Education Law	
-5	Immigration Law	
6	Criminal Law – Part 1	
7	Criminal Law - Part 2	
8	Human Rights Law	
9	Employment Law	
10	Private Law 1 – Reasonableness	19
11	Private Law 2 – Wrongful Birth	
12	International Law Obligations	ě
13	The Ontarians With Disabilities Act	100
14	Clients with Disabilities	
15		

